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RUSS 301.B01: Russian - Oral and Written Expression I

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RUSSIAN 301: Oral and Written Expression I

Преподаватель (Professor): Ona Renner-Fahey

Приёмные часы (Office hours, via Zoom): M at 11 and W at 3, and by appointment.

Кабинет (Office): Liberal Arts 329
(This semester I will not held office hours in my office.)

Имэйл (E-mail): ona.renner@mso.umt.edu

Мобильный телефон (Cell phone): See Announcements/Emails
Please only use this number to text if you are confused about where we are meeting or to relay important information regarding your health.

Где/Когда? ((When/When?):

In person: Mondays and Fridays, sometimes in LA 207, sometimes outside on West Tennis Courts. If necessary, you may text me to find out where we are.

Over Zoom: Wednesdays. Link is in Moodle Page and in your email.

Course description:

This course is structured around readings that are geared toward stimulating reflection and discussion. Vocabulary and grammar will be introduced *in context* through readings and then further activated through the writing of compositions about the topics of the readings. Once the students have familiarized themselves with the topics in the target language, they will have in-class discussions and debates using the new material and skills.

Goals and outcomes:

In this course students will increase their familiarity with and comfort in the target language. More specifically, they will advance their vocabulary; improve their reading and writing skills; and gain confidence and fluency in their oral proficiency. Particular emphasis will be placed upon learning to express opinions and defend viewpoints.

Classroom etiquette:

It is essential to the learning process that students treat each other and the instructor with respect. Under the Student Conduct Code, students who are found to be disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom.

Disability accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable accommodation in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program accommodations. If you are already working with Disability Services, then you should arrange to meet with your instructor during her office hours to discuss accommodations that may be necessary.

Percentage distribution of final course grade:

- ✓ Class participation: 20%
- ✓ Pen pal participation: 8%
- ✓ One-on-one conversations: 8%
- ✓ Quizzes (5 @ 4%): 20%
- ✓ Unit compositions (5 @ 5%): 25%
- ✓ Film composition: 9%
- ✓ Final exam: 10%

Assessment:

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required: The students will receive participation grades of 0-3: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. On scheduled discussion days students will receive a grade out of 100 percentage points. The grade will be based not only on how much students speak but whether they prove that they have learned vocabulary and phrases from the unit. *Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade.* If a student is going to miss a discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. *Each missed discussion day that is not made up will result in a one-point deduction from the final course grade. Other absences may be made up in various ways. Contact your professor to find out about your options.*

Pen pals: Each student will again have a Russian pen pal in Vladimir through the program American Home. This program will be administered by American Home via e-mail. *It is the student's responsibility to write to her/his pen pal on time. When a student sends an essay or set of corrections late, one percentage point will be deducted from the pen pal participation grade. Each time the communication appears to be done sloppily or with too much dependence on the Internet, a point will be deducted.*

One-on-one Zoom conversations with a native speaker: *Each student will be required to have 7 online conversations with a native speaker of Russian who has a tutoring business out of Helena. Your conversations should be done after you have turned in the first draft of your essay and by the day the syllabus states they are due. It is the student's responsibility to work out a schedule with the tutor. If a student misses a conversation entirely, one percentage point will be deducted from the 10% of the course grade dedicated to this project. Additionally, if a student does not seem willing to speak in Russian or seems sorely unprepared for the conversation, one half to an entire point might be deducted. The conversations will be recorded and graded by Professor Renner. There is no required textbook to purchase for this class; instead, students will pay this professional tutor in order to obtain one-on-one additional language practice with a native speaker they've never met. More details regarding this course requirement will be discussed in class.*

Compositions: These must be neatly handwritten, skipping lines. Please use both sides of the paper but avoid dark pens that bleed through. Because the sizes of paper and of handwriting vary so much, a specific number of pages is not assigned. Students will be told once in a while how the word count of their essays compares to their classmates'. *The most important requirement is that you cover all the questions brought up in the readings and actively use a lot of the new vocabulary.* Dictionaries and reference books may be used when writing the essays; Google Translate should be avoided as much as possible, using it only for single words or two-word phrases, nothing longer. If the language of an essay seems to be too advanced, I will meet with the student to discuss the writing process and content and may require the essay to be rewritten. *Inappropriate use of the Internet increases with every year and will not be tolerated.* Finally, if essays are handed in late, they will be marked down 2 points per day, 4 points per class day, 6 points over a weekend. After class on the same day will result in a 1-point reduction. *The compositions on the films should be approximately twice as long as the unit compositions and are weighted more heavily.* They should incorporate vocabulary and grammar from *all* the related units, as well as from the film. The same grading rubric will be used on these compositions. The first draft will comprise 70% of the final/revised composition grade. The grading rubric (out of 70%) is as follows:

Significant use of new vocabulary: 30%

Grammatical Accuracy: 30%

Organization (introduction, conclusion, cohesive paragraphs): 20%

Stylistics (varied word choice, good transitions): 10%

Mechanics (Handwriting, punctuation, capitalization): 10%

Course materials:

1. It is not necessary to purchase a textbook for this course. Selected readings from R.A. Kul'kova's Я хочу тебя спросить... will be provided through Moodle.
2. A good English-Russian/Russian-English dictionary is, however, required (Katzner or Oxford is recommended. A pocket dictionary will not suffice.)
3. A book of verb conjugations is highly suggested.

COURSE SCHEDULE: (*Subject to change):

Homework assignments will be due on the dates provided. If a student is absent s/he should, of course, check to see whether any changes were made to the scheduled homework.

W 8/19 (Zoom): Introduction

F 8/21 (F2F): Review due

UNIT 1: FOOD AND NUTRITION

M 8/24 (F2F): First reading due; Email Katya Grover before class

W 8/26 (Zoom): Second reading due

F 8/28 (F2F): Third reading due:
First Russian convo completed

M 8/31 (F2F): Composition due

W 9/2 (Zoom): In-class pen pal work; second Russian convo completed

F 9/4 (F2F): Quiz

M 9/7: NO CLASS

W 9/9 (Zoom): Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 2: EDUCATION

F 9/11 (F2F): First reading due

M 9/14 (F2F): Second reading due

W 9/16 (Zoom): Third reading due

F 9/18 (F2F): Composition due

M 9/21 (F2F): Quiz

W 9/23 (Zoom): In-class pen pal work; third Russian convo completed

F 9/25 (F2F): Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 3: FRIENDSHIP

M 9/28 (F2F): First reading due

W 9/30 (Zoom): Second reading due

F 10/2 (F2F): Third reading due

M 10/5 (F2F): Composition due

W 10/7 (Zoom): In-class pen pal work; fourth Russian convo completed

F 10/9 (F2F): Quiz

M 10/12 (F2F): Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 4: NATURE

W 10/14 (Zoom): First reading due

F 10/16 (F2F): Second reading due

M 10/19 (F2F): Third reading due

W 10/21 (Zoom): Intro to film (No homework due)

F 10/23 (F2F): Composition due

M 10/26 (F2F): Quiz

W 10/28 (Zoom): In-class pen pal work; fifth Russian convo completed

F 10/30 (F2F): Discussion day, Corrected composition due

UNIT 5: FILM: *Dersu Uzala*

M 11/2 (F2F): Film; homework TBA

W 11/4 (Zoom): Film; homework TBA; sixth Russian convo completed

F 11/6 (F2F): Film; homework TBA

M 11/9 (F2F): Film Review; homework TBA

W 11/11: NO CLASS

F 11/13 (F2F): Composition due

M 11/16 (F2F): Review for final

W 11/18 (Zoom): In-class pen pal work; seventh Russian convo completed

**FINAL EXAM (F2F) and
CORRECTED FILM COMPOSITION:
2:10-3:10 pm on Tuesday, November 24th**